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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **BP OIL  
INTERNATIONAL LIMITED [GB/GB]**; Britannic  
House, 1 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7BA (GB).

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(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **TAYLOR, Spencer,  
Edwin [GB/GB]**; 38 Goldney Road, Heatherside, Camber-  
ley, Surrey GU15 1DW (GB).

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(74) Agent: **PERKINS, Nicholas, David**; BP International  
Limited, Patents & Agreements, Chertsey Road, Sun-  
bury-on-Thames, Middlesex TW16 7LN (GB).

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(54) Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IMPROVING THE OXIDATIVE THERMAL STABILITY OF DISTILLATE  
FUEL**

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides methods of improving the thermal oxidative stability of a distillate fuel which comprise selectively reducing the active concentration in the fuel of N-H containing heterocyclic aromatic compounds in which the nitrogen atom of the N-H group is part of the aromatic system, and wherein said fuel also contains an active concentration of metal compounds or will be exposed to active metal compounds in storage or in use. The present invention also provides methods of determining the thermal oxidative stability of a distillate fuel and apparatus for performing said methods.